(b) Authorised Dealers Full-fledged Money changers have been delegated full powers to sell foreign exchange worth US$, 500|- or its equivalent per person once in two calendar years to eligible travellers wishing to avail themselves of FTS facility against due endorsements made in their passports if and only if the following criteria are satisfied:—

(1) The intending applicant should be a person resident in India.

(2) The visit is proposed to be undertaken for any country in the world except Nepal and Bhutan.

(3) If a valid passport is produced.

(4) If the intending traveller has not availed himself|herself of FTS facility since the commencement of the previous calendar year.

(5) If a valid return ticket booked in India is produced.

(6) The visit under FTS is not in combination with NTS, export promotion and other business grounds and Haj pilgrimage.

The Reserve Bank of India is constantly monitoring the foreign exchange sold by Authorised Dealers|Full-fledged Money Changers under the Scheme.

(c) Data regarding foreign exchange released under FTS is not maintained country-wise.

Investment by non-resident Indians in Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands

2963. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop one of the Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands for the non-resident Indians for investment;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that non-resident Indians have been pressing the Government of India to make such a move; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) Some interest has been shown by some of the Non-resident Indians for Andaman and Nicobar Islands being developed as a free port. The feasibility of such a project has to be evaluated in terms of physical infrastructural facilities that have to be developed as also from the legal and constitutional angle. No decision has yet been taken on the matter.

Promotion of exports from Farm and Plantation sectors

2964. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has advised the State Governmenst to promote exports particularly from the farm and plantation sectors;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken by Orissa and other State Governments for promoting exports from farm and plantation sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At a Conference of State Agriculture Production Commissioners organised by the Commerce Ministry, various issues relating to the generation of exportable surplus of commodities like Basmati Rice, Wheat of internationally acceptable quality,

Fruits and Vegetables and Processed Foods, and Marine products were discussed. In addition, various bottlenecks in increasing exports of some of the items including transportation bottlenecks were discussed and the States were advised to identify nodal agencies to deal with matters relating to agriculture exports.

(c) Most of the State Governments have already identified a nodal agency to deal with matters relating to agricultural exports. Some of the States have set-up necessary infrastructure such as Exort Promotion Councils or Corporations to assist exporters and even directly undertake exports. Besides generation of exportable surplus, the State Governments have also been attempting to streamline market linkages through cooperatives with a view to promoting exports. Orissa has set up a directorate of export promotion and marketing. Orissa has also established new tea plantations recently in the non-traditinal areas.

Export of Iron Ore to Japan and South Korea

2965. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that iron ore exports to Japan and South Korea has suffered a serious set back because of the frequent breakdown of handling facilities at Vizag port and that Japan proposes to opt out of the contract in view of the uncertain and unstable supply of iron ore;

(b) if so, what is the extent of backlog in the shipment of iron ore to these countries till date; and

(c) what are the major causes for the frequent breakdown in handling facilities at Vizag port and what measures have been taken by Government improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Iron ore exports to Japan particularly have suffered a setback because of frequent breakdown in handling facilities at Vizag. Japanese Steel Mills have expressed their dissatisfaction about the Iron ore export through Vizag port during this year.

(b) During the period April-November, 1985, 34.57 lakhs tonnes of iron has been shipped, including 3.39 lakh tonnes pertaining to last year's contract. Excluding this on prorata basis there is a short-fall of nearly 16 lakhs tonnes mostly to Japan.

(c) The shortfall has been primarily due to wearing out of old equipment like wagon tipplers and conveyor belt at the port. All efforts are being made to improve exports. Two too old tipplers are being replaced, pending which essential repairs have been carried out and both these tipplers are now working satisfactorily. A protion of the conveyor belt has also been replaced. The performance of the port in November has shown som improvement.

Tea and Coffee cultivation in Orissa

2966. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to bring more areas under tea and coffee plantation in Orissa; and

(b) what are the names of the areas in different districts in Orissa where tea and coffee plantation has started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Coffee Board and Tea Board are undertaking various developmental and extension activities besides providing loan and subsidy for encouraging new plantations. An office of the Senior Liaison Officer of Coffee Board is located at Koraput and an Extension Centre is located at Jaypore to provide technical guider and Advisory support to the coffee holdings in Orissa. A joint venture